

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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R 171535Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
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INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY COTONOU

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, GV, IV, SG, CF
SUBJECT: 31ST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF GUINEAN PARTY

SUMMARY: ON PARTY'S ANNIVERSARY, SEKOU TOURE UNVEILED
PLANS FOR SEPTEMBER PARTY CONGRESS, INCLUDING "SEMINAR"
OPEN EVEN TO CRITICS OF GUINEA. END SUMMARY.

1. 31ST ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF GUINEAN DEMOCRATIC
PARTY (PDG) ON MAY 14 WAS MARKED BY GATHERING AT CONAKRY'S
STADIUM ESTIMATED BY GOG AUTHORITIES TO BE IN EXCESS OF
140,000 INCLUDING SPECTATORS AND PARTICIPANTS. GUEST
OF HONOR AT THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION, NATIONAL HOLIDAY
SECOND IN IMPORTANCE ONLY TO ANNUAL NOVEMBER 22
COMMEMORATION OF 1970 AGGRESSION, WAS CONGOLESE PRESIDENT
YHOMBY-OPANGO. IN UNCHARACTERISTICALLY BRIEF SPEECH
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(ABOUT 20 MINUTES) PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE GAVE SPECIAL
RECOGNITION TO SENEGALESE AND IVORIAN DELEGATION CHIEFS
DAOUDA SOW, GOS MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TELECOM-
MUNICATIONS, AND JOSEPH KOFFI, POLITBURO
MEMBER AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF IVORY COAST'S NATIONAL
WORKERS UNION. TOURE ALSO SINGLED OUT GOVERNMENTS OF
MALI, LIBYA AND NIGERIA WITH SPECIAL THANKS FOR HOSPI-

TALITY AND "HELP" DURING PRESIDENT'S RECENT FOREIGN TRAVELS. DESPITE A FEW PLUGS FOR "WORLD REVOLUTION", TOURE PLEDGED GOOD WILL OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO MAKE RECENT RECONCILIATION WITH IVORY COAST AND SENEGAL WORK DESPITE ALLEGED UNSPECIFIED "IMPERIALIST" PREDICTIONS THAT IT WILL NOT.

2. KEY FEATURE OF TOURE'S SPEECH WAS UNVEILING OF ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR 11TH NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 14-28. DATES COMMEMORATE HISTORIC BREAK WITH FRENCH COMMUNITY AT DAWN OF INDEPENDENCE IN 1958. TOURE ANNOUNCED THAT "INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR" JUST BEFORE CONGRESS WILL BE OPEN TO ALL AFRICAN PARTIES, MOVEMENTS AND GOVERNMENTS FOR "CONFRONTATION OF VIEWPOINTS" WHICH WITH "OBJECTIVITY AND DIGNITY" (WILL FOCUS ON) THE "MOST SUITABLE WAY TO APPROACH (THE PROBLEM OF) AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT". TOURE REVEALED THAT DURING PAST THREE WEEKS PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND POLITBURO MEMBERS HAD COMPILED LENGTHY (1200 TYPEWRITTEN PAGES) REPORT COVERING 23 MAJOR ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT CONGRESS. THESE INCLUDE HISTORY OF PARTY, DOMESTIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WHETHER PRIVATE COMMERCE WILL BE GIVEN OFFICIAL SANCTION AND BE PERMITTED TO EXPAND, PARTY THEORY, REVOLUTIONARY VIGILANCE AND NEXT PHASE OF REVOLUTION UPON WHICH PRESIDENT DID NOT ELABORATE. AMONG MORE INTERESTING AGENDA TOPICS ARE "RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE AND HUMAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RIGHTS (RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUAL)".

3. YHOMBY-OPANGO'S SPEECH, SOMEWHAT LONGER THAN TOURE'S, MADE MORE GENEROUS USE OF RADICAL CLICHES TOUTING STRICT SOCIALISM IN AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT. SPEECH INCLUDED FLATTERING REFERENCES TO LATE MARION N'GOUABI. OPANGO REPUTEDLY DISPLEASED TOURE BY LABELING FIDEL CASTRO AS WORLD'S FOREMOST REVOLUTIONARY, THUS RELEGATING TOURE BY INFERENCE TO AT LEAST SECOND PLACE. OPANGO GOES NEXT TO BENIN, THEN NORTH KOREA.

4. PRESIDENTS TRAVELLED TOGETHER ON MAY 15-16 TO THREE INTERIOR TOWNS WITH ENTOURAGE CONSISTING OF INTERIOR DOMAIN MINISTER MOUSSA DIAKITE, MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS FILY CISSOKO AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER JEANNE MARTIN-CISSE, PLUS SELECTED FOREIGN CHIEFS OF MISSION: AMBASSADOR CROSBY AND FRENCH, INDIAN, SAUDI, CONGOLESE, CUBAN, GDR AND YET-TO-BE-ACCREDITED LIBERIAN AMBASSADORS, A WELL-BALANCED GEOPOLITICAL LINEUP CONSISTENT WITH GUINEA'S MORE NON-ALIGNED LOOK IN 1978.

5. COMMENT: SEKOU TOURE'S INTRIGUING CALL FOR "OPEN"

POLITICAL SEMINAR NEXT SEPTEMBER IS ALREADY PROVOKING
CONSIDERABLE COMMENT IN VARIOUS GOG MINISTRIES AND AMONG
DIPLOMATIC CORPS. PRESIDENT SPECIFICALLY INVITED AFRICAN
INTELLECTUALS, REVOLUTIONARIES AND EVEN REACTIONARIES
TO "FREE, DIGNIFIED AND RESPONSIBLE" DISCUSSION. WHETHER
TOURE IS PREPARED TO ALLOW REALLY LEGITIMATE OPEN DEBATE
OR MERELY STAGE-MANAGED ENDORSEMENT OF REGIME'S VIEWS
IS SO FAR MOOT. SOME GOG OFFICIALS BELIEVE TOURE COULD
IN FACT BE WILLING TO RISK A LITTLE FREE SPEECH TO FUR-
THER IMPROVE GUINEA'S IMAGE JUST AS PRISONER
RELEASES (SEPTTEL) ARE DOING. REGARDLESS, SEMINAR NO
DOUBT IS ALSO CALCULATED TO ADD WEIGHT TO TOURE'S PAN-
AFRICAN IMAGE. MEANWHILE, FOR AN "OFF YEAR" FOLLOWING
MORE SIGNIFICANT CELEBRATION OF LAST YEAR'S 30TH ANNI-
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VERSARY, THIS WEEK'S MAY 14 FESTIVITIES SEEMED TO GO
OFF WELL AND PORTRAYED PDG AS DYNAMIC ORGANIZATION WHICH,
ENTERING ITS 32ND YEAR, IS GIRDING ITSELF IN WAKE OF MONROVIA
SUMMIT TO CONFRONT UNFLATTERING COMPARISONS WITH FAR MORE DRAMATIC
PROGRESS OF SUCH OTHER WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES AS SENEGAL
AND IVORY COAST. END COMMENT.
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